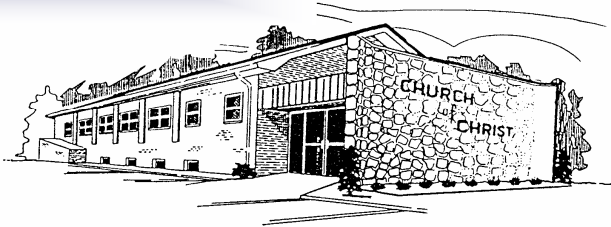


Teaching them to observe
all things...Matt. 28:20



The St. Joseph Observer

May 16, 2010

The St. Joseph Church of Christ

Charlie McGee, Minister
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Schedule of Services

Sunday School
9:45

Sunday Worship
10:45

Sunday PM
5:00

Tuesday Ladies' Class
9:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study
6:00

Elders

Leo Conkin 925-7688
Clyde Daniel 428-2322
Charlie McGee 861-5811
Steve Parsons 465-7901

Deacons

Dave Hipskind 468-4735
Eric Ramso 465-5965

Ladies' Prayer Chain

Kim Batson 428-7281
Barb Conkin 925-7688
Gayle Daniel 428-2322
Jan Mundy 473-1505

Enjoy Yourself

God knew Jeremiah **BEFORE** he was in his mother's womb (Jer 1:5). Although that statement was meant for this great prophet, it at least implies that God knew all of us before we were ever conceived also. Matt 10:30 says God knows the number of hairs we each have on our heads. Every mother has seen their child's body. They can recognize their child without ever seeing their face by the scars, birthmarks, and other markings on their child's body. But I've never known a mother that knew exactly how many hairs were on the heads of each of their children.

The Creator knows His creation much better than the creation knows itself... or the creator. In other words, God knows you better than you know yourself and better than you know God. For me, there is no question that this is true. However, it does require faith. It is one thing to say "we believe God knows what is best for us." It's quite another to live our lives accordingly.

Everything that God created is good (Gen 1:31). And everything God created was created for man's benefit (Gen 1:26-31). God's creation benefited man physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Man was given work to do and food to eat. Mankind was also given a full range of emotions including anger, love, happiness, sadness. Our emotions are one of the things that us like God.

I said all that to say this; the pleasures that God created for us He intended to be enjoyed. God wants us to be happy and to benefit from His creation. Everything is beneficial. But man has perverted many of the things God has blessed us with. We have overindulged in many of the blessings. I know... I am guilty of overindulging as my weight makes obvious. Food is good. It was create both for our physical benefit as well as pleasure. Abusing this blessing is not what God intended.

There are many other blessings that we have available to us. And in every case, it is our responsibility to use the blessing the way God intended. After all... Father knows best. The Creator knows best.

Sex is certainly good and enjoyable. He created sex for procreation as well as pleasure. But when God tells us that sex is good **ONLY** within the context of marriage, it behooves us to listen. After all... Father knows best.

When He tells us not to partner with unbelievers (2 Cor 6:14-16), we should listen. That includes marriage as well as other relationships.

God doesn't forbid our pleasure. On the contrary, He created the world and the pleasures of the world for our enjoyment. But pleasure for the sake of pleasure isn't good. Pleasure that does not lead us to God, to **WORSHIP** God, isn't good.

There are so many things available to us to enjoy; chocolate, the beauty of nature, birthday cake, sports, and so much more... and, yes, even sex. God wants us to enjoy these things. Like any earthly father, He takes pleasure in seeing His children enjoying themselves. He takes pride on our pleasure and accomplishments.

Rest assured that God did not create pleasure to tease us or tempt us. He also did not create pleasure so that we can satisfy our every desire no matter how depraved. He did not create families so that they can take priority over Him. Of all the priorities you have to juggle and keep up with, what sits in the very top position? There cannot be **ANY** blessing that we enjoy so much that it takes priority over Jesus.

Please remember in prayer...

- Members with Health Issues Leo Conkin, Warren James, Virginia Kowalski, Vanessa Matthews, Jim Smith, Lee Wallis, Juanita Weatherford
- The Military Nick Hastings, Ian Matthews
- Our Church The Buildings & Grounds Committee, our Elders & Deacons, our members

Announcements

*5th Sunday Potluck & Fellowship
May 30*

VBS

July 25-29 6-8 PM

Invite your friends & family now!

Graduation Celebrations

Lizigh Ann Ivcs
Friday, June 4 - 6-9 pm
2300 Forest Hills Lane, St. Joe

Shannon Ramso
Sunday, June 13 - 1-4 pm (come for lunch)
9777 Niagara Row, Bridgman

*We will be collecting change for the Schultz-Lewis Children's Home
from May 16 until September 12.*

*Each family will have a collection can available Sunday, May 16. Please be sure to get one.
We will collect change (and dollars and checks!) through the summer.*

Congregational Calendar

May

16  Charlie McGee	17	18 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	19	20	21  Dean Kittleson	22
23  Mason Parsons	24	25 <i>Ladies' Class</i>	26	27	28  Irwin	29